



REC'D	18 FEB 2005
WIPO	PCT



PCT / IB 04 / 04388

18 FEB 2005



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

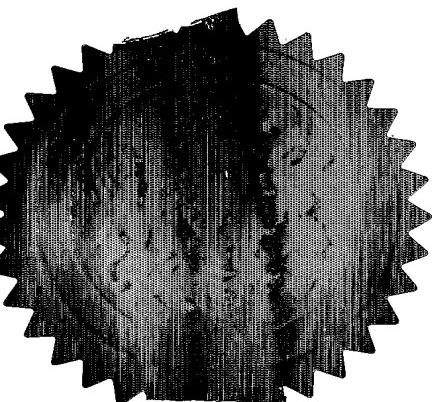
The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.

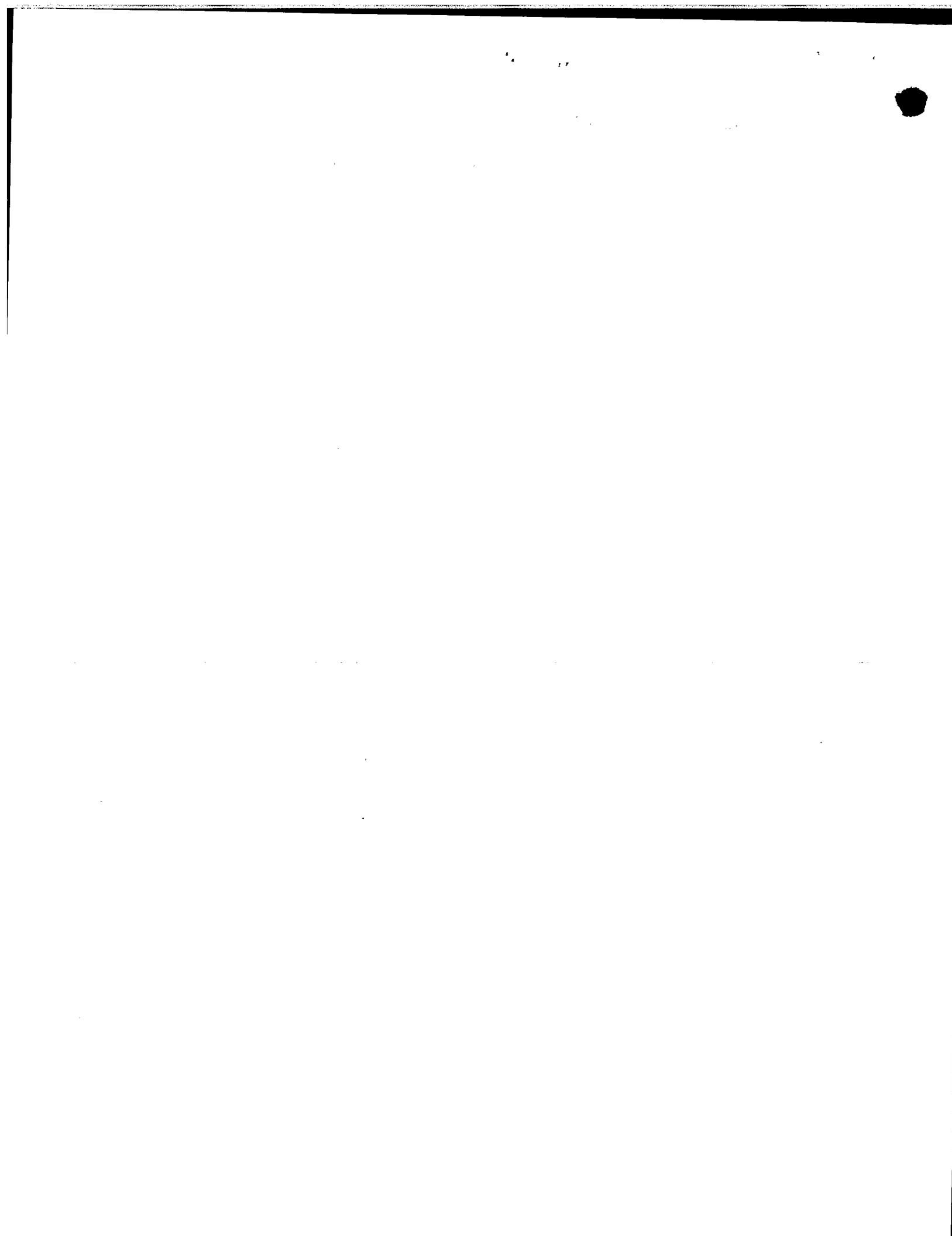


Signed

Dated

31 December 2004

**PRIORITY
DOCUMENT**
SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED
BUT NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH
RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)



Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)



The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP9 1RH

1. Your reference

304853GB/PRS

2. Patent application number
(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0330055.5 ✓

24 DEC 2003

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (*underline all surnames*)Nokia Corporation
Keilalahdentie 4,
03260 Espoo,
Finland.

8778888001

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

Finland

4. Title of the invention

Analogue Navigation Device

5. Name of your agent (*if you have one*)PAGE WHITE & FARRER
54 Doughty Street,
London WC1N 2LS,
United Kingdom"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (*including the postcode*)Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

1255003 ✓

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (*if you know it*) the or each application numberCountry Priority application number
(*if you know it*) Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:
a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
See note (d))

Yes

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.
Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form	0
Description	11
Claim(s)	4
Abstract	1
Drawing(s)	6 + 6

cf

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents	0
Translations of priority documents	0
Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)	0
Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)	0
Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)	0
Any other documents (please specify)	0

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature 
PAGE WHITE & FARRER

Date 24/12/03

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Philip Slingsby
(020) 7831-7929

Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

Notes

- If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 0645 500505.
- Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.
- If there is not enough space for all the relevant details on any part of this form, please continue on a separate sheet of paper and write "see continuation sheet" in the relevant part(s). Any continuation sheet should be attached to this form.
- If you have answered 'Yes' Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.
- Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.
- For details of the fee and ways to pay please contact the Patent Office.

NC33903GB

PWF304853GB

ANALOGUE NAVIGATION DEVICE5 Field of Invention

The present invention relates to an analogue navigation device. Particularly, but not exclusively, the present invention relates to an analogue navigation device for use in a mobile electronic device.

10

Background of the Invention

Analogue navigation devices are utilised in a number of different types of mobile product with applications such as: pointing, navigating and selecting (e.g. 15 browsing on web pages); drawing sketches; marking maps with lines; game play; radio controlled devices; and editing and manipulating pictures.

Known analogue navigation devices include joysticks, touchpads, mice (ball and optical types), arrow keys, navigating disks (arrowed disks) etc. The technologies 20 used in these known analogue navigation devices include the Hall Effect (magnetic), resistive plates (touchpad technology), resistive material (carbon impregnated silicone), capacitive pads and optical solutions. Previous optical solutions are reflective only. Figure 1 illustrates the principle behind previous optical solutions. In these arrangements, an object (e.g. a users finger) or a 25 pattern reflects transmitted light to a sensor/receiver. The amount of light reflected by the object is a function of the distance from the transmitter. With illustrated pattern, the amount of light reflected back is a function of the colour.

Problems with the above-mentioned known analogue navigation devices are: high 30 cost; high power; large size (in particular the devices can be of too large a height to incorporate in mobile devices); and the devices may not be durable enough for integration into mobile products.

Summary of the Invention

An aim of the embodiments described hereinafter is to solve the problems
5 defined above.

- According to the present invention there is provided an analogue navigation device comprising a transmitter for generating a light signal, a receiver for receiving the light signal, a light guide having a surface for internally reflecting the
10 light signal from the transmitter to the receiver, and an actuator having a surface, said actuator surface having at least a portion which is movable between a first position in which it is spaced apart from a portion of said light guide surface with a gas or fluid therebetween, and a second position in which it is in contact with said portion of said light guide surface, said portion of said light guide surface having a
15 higher refractive index than said portion of said actuator surface and said portion of said actuator surface having a different refractive index than said gas or fluid, whereby in use the relative refractive index is changed at the contacted portion of the light guide surface thereby altering the light signal received by the receiver.
- 20 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a hand held electronic device comprising an analogue navigation device as defined above.
- According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a method
25 of navigating comprising generating a light signal and reflecting the light signal off a surface, wherein the relative refractive index between materials on either side of the surface is changed thereby altering the reflected light signal, said reflected light signal being received and used to control the position of an element.
- 30 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a key device comprising a transmitter for generating a light signal, a receiver for receiving the light signal, a light guide having a surface for internally reflecting the

light signal from the transmitter to the receiver, and an actuator having a surface, said actuator surface having at least a portion which is movable between a first position in which it is spaced apart from a portion of said light guide surface with a gas or fluid therebetween, and a second position in which it is in contact with said
5 portion of said light guide surface, said portion of said light guide surface having a higher refractive index than said portion of said actuator surface and said portion of said actuator surface having a different refractive index than said gas or fluid, whereby in use the relative refractive index is changed at the contacted portion of the light guide surface thereby altering the light signal received by the receiver.

10

Embodiments of the present invention use known optical properties of a light guide to internally reflect light. Embodiments of the present invention differ from previous implementations in that they use an actuator (e.g. a silicone rubber actuator) in conjunction with the light guide to alter the relative refractive index of
15 the light guide and the substance forming an interface with the light guide thereby altering the reflective properties of the light guide.

Embodiments of the present invention solve the above-identified problems by providing a low-cost, low-power, small size, durable navigation device suitable for
20 integration into mobile products. While previous optical solutions for analogue navigation utilise reflective techniques, embodiments of the present invention rely on changing the refractive index of a light guide. Embodiments of the present invention may work using standard IR and visible LEDs. A preferred embodiment uses HALIOS (high ambient light independent optical system) technology.

25

Embodiments of the present invention have an advantage over prior arrangements in that embodiments of the present invention use non-contact sensing thus increasing the durability of the device. That is, embodiments of the present invention function by contacting the surface of the light guide with the
30 actuator and the sensor (receiver) is not contacted. This is in contrast to some other technologies in which the sensor is contacted in use thus damaging the

sensor over time. For example, resistive touchpads function by contacting the surface of the element doing the sensing.

Embodiments of the present invention can also be made waterproof and use little power. Accordingly, embodiments of the present invention are ideal for utilisation in mobile products.

Brief Description of the Drawings

For a better understanding of the present invention and to show how the same may be carried into effect, reference will now be made by way of example to the accompanying drawings, in which:

- Figure 1 illustrates the principle behind prior art optical solutions;
- Figure 2 shows a side view of a light guide reflecting light from a transmitter (an LED) to a receiver (a photo detector);
- Figure 3 shows the light guide of Figure 2 with an actuator touching the surface of the light guide;
- Figure 4 shows a graph indicating how the output voltage from the photodetector in Figures 2 and 3 decreases in size when the actuator touches the light guide surface;
- Figure 5 shows a plan view of an arrangement of LEDs and a photodetector in an optical analogue navigation device according to an embodiment of the present invention;
- Figure 6 shows a side view of the embodiment of Figure 5 comprising a light guide, an actuator having a hemispherical surface, a plurality of transmitters (LEDs) and a receiver (photodetector);
- Figure 7 shows the embodiment of Figures 5 and 6 with the hemispherical surface of the actuator contacting the light guide surface;
- Figure 8 shows the embodiment of Figures 5 to 7 with the actuator displaced to one side;

Figure 9 shows another embodiment in which an optical grating has been provided on the light guide thereby increasing the efficiency of the system;

Figure 10 illustrates how a light guide may function to change the angle of incidence and the resultant effect on the amount of light refracted and internally reflected;

Figure 11 is a side view of an optical analogue joystick according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 12 is a side view of an optical analogue navigating disk according to another embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 13 is a top side view of a printed wiring board for use with embodiments of the present invention;

Figure 14 is a bottom side view of the printed wiring board shown in Figure 13;

Figure 15 shows a bottom-side view of an alternative actuator form according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 16 shows a top-side view of the actuator in Figure 15; and

Figure 17 shows a cross-sectional view from the bottom-side of the actuator shown in Figures 15 and 16.

20 Detailed Description of the Embodiments of the Invention

The principles of the present invention will now be described with reference to Figures 2 to 4.

25 Figure 2 shows how a light guide 2 can be used to reflect light from a transmitter or transmitter 4 (e.g. an infrared or visible LED) to a receiver 6 (e.g. a photo detector). The absolute refractive index of the light guide (n_1) is greater than the absolute refractive index of the air above it (n_2). The critical angle (θ_c) for total internal reflection can be found from Snell's law, putting in an angle of 90° for the angle of the refracted ray. This gives: $\sin \theta_c = n_2/n_1$, where $n_1 > n_2$. The greater the difference between n_1 and n_2 (i.e. the smaller the relative refractive index $n^* =$

n_2/n_1), the smaller the critical angle resulting in more light striking a surface portion 8 at an angle greater than θ_c and being internally reflected.

Figure 3 shows how the effect of touching an actuator 10 on the surface of the light guide 2 reduces the signal to the receiver 6. The absolute refractive index of the material of the actuator is larger than the absolute refractive index of air. Accordingly, the relative refractive index n^* is increased and the critical angle increases changing the reflective properties of the light guide. Without the actuator in contact with the light guide there is a large difference between the refractive index of the light guide and the air resulting in the majority of the light being internally reflected within the light guide. When the actuator touches the surface of the light guide there is a much closer match between the refractive index of the actuator and the light guide and so much less light is internally reflected and the received output signal is significantly reduced. Figure 4 shows how the output voltage from the photodetector decreases when the actuator touches the light guide surface.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to Figures 5 to 8.

Figure 5 shows how LEDs and a photodetector can be laid out to produce a navigation device. Opposing LEDs are pulsed alternatively and the photodetector measures the internal reflection level from the light guide.

Figure 6 shows how an actuator 10 with a hemispherical surface can be positioned above the light guide 2 but not in contact with it. Air is disposed between the actuator and the light guide although some other gas/fluid other than air may be utilized. The actuator is made of a material (e.g. silicone) which has an absolute refractive index higher than air (or other gas/fluid) but lower than the refractive index of the light guide. The actuator is movable between a position in which it is separated from the light guide (shown in Figure 6) to a position in which it is directly adjacent the upper surface of the light guide or in contact with the light

guide. The actuator may be rigid and movable between the first and second positions via a moving mechanism such as a hinging mechanism. Alternatively, the actuator may be made of a deformable material so as to be movable between the first position and the second position. The actuator is biased towards the first
5 position so that when the actuator is not depressed by a user it automatically moves to the first position. In one embodiment the actuator is made of silicone rubber.

Figure 7 shows how touching the actuator causes the hemispherical surface to
10 contact the light guide surface. With the actuator in the second position, the relative refractive index is increased and the amount of reflected light is decreased. As a result, the output voltage from the photodetector decreases.

Figure 8 shows how rocking the actuator button, as during cursor navigation,
15 causes the hemispherical surface to roll along the light guide surface. The subsequent reduction in the amount of light internally reflected by the waveguide from the relevant LED or LEDs is then used to calculate the position of the area touching the surface. This in turn is used to calculate and control the position of an object (e.g. on a display). In addition to this, when using a deformable material
20 for the actuator, varying the amount of pressure used to navigate alters the size of the area in contact with the light guide again reducing the amount of light internally reflected by the light guide. This system is therefore pressure sensitive. The sensitivity to pressure will depend on the type of material used for the actuator with harder materials being less pressure sensitive and softer materials
25 being more pressure sensitive. The type of material for the actuator may therefore be selected according to the particular implementation according to how sensitive to pressure the device is intended to be. Alternatively, it may be possible to vary the pressure sensitivity within a single device. In this case, if the user wishes the device to have no pressure sensitivity, a setting may be selected
30 such that a controller processes the information from the photodetector in such a way as to calculate the centre point of the area touching the light guide surface and control the position of an object (e.g. on a display) according to this middle

point of contact. Alternatively, selecting a pressure sensitive setting may result in the device functioning such that, for example, when a larger area contacts the light guide as a result of an increase in pressure applied to the actuator, the speed of an object on a display controlled by the device increases. Thus, for 5 example, when a user pushes the actuator to the left the object on the display moves to the left. If the user increases the pressure, the contact area increases and the object on the display moves to the left more quickly in response.

In an alternative arrangement to that described above with reference to Figures 6
10 to 8, the first position (i.e. the rest position) may be defined as that shown in Figure 7 such that in its un-actuated/rest state the actuator contacts the light guide at, for example, its central position and by rocking the actuator as shown in figure 8, the position of an object is calculated and controlled. This alternative arrangement negates the need to depress the actuator. The actuator is in contact
15 with the light guide at all times (although a portion of the actuator is still movable from a position spaced apart from the light guide to a position in contact with the light guide). This may improve user function and increase reaction time in, for example, game play.

20 Figure 9 shows an alternative embodiment in which an optical grating 12 has been provided on the light guide so as to increase the efficiency of the system. Providing a grating on to the light guide changes the effective angle of incidence allowing more internal reflection. Figure 10 illustrates how a light guide may function to change the angle of incidence and the resultant effect on the amount
25 of light refracted and internally reflected. As the angle of incidence increases the amount of refracted light passing through the interface decreases, and the amount of light being internally reflected increases until all the light is internally reflected. Accordingly, a light guide can be provided to increase the effective angle of incidence thus increasing the amount of light internally reflected to the
30 sensor/receiver and increasing the efficiency of the system.

Figure 11 shows an optical analogue joystick which functions in the aforementioned manner and comprises an actuator element having an upper portion in the form of a stick 14 for actuation by a user. The actuator element has side walls 16 supporting the stick portion. The side walls are deformable thereby
5 allowing the stick portion to be movable both up and down and from side to side. The actuator element has a lower portion 18 comprising a substantially hemispherical surface for contacting a light distribution layer 20 (light guide), an upper surface of which is disposed adjacent, and spaced apart from, the hemispherical surface. On actuation of the stick portion 14 by a user, the side
10 walls deform 16 and the hemispherical surface contacts the upper surface of the light distribution layer. An optical component layer 22 is disposed at a lower side of the light distribution layer, said lower side being opposite to said upper side. The optical component layer comprises emitter(s) and receiver(s) for emitting light into the light distribution layer and receiving light from the distribution layer
15 respectively.

Figure 12 shows an alternative arrangement in which the actuator element is in the form of a knob or disk 24. The knob/disk 24 is disposed on a deformable element 26 having an intermediate portion 28 which is supported by side walls 30.
20 At least one of the side walls and the intermediate portion are deformable. Preferably both the side walls and the intermediate portion are deformable. The intermediate portion has a lower surface for contacting a light distribution layer 20 (light guide), an upper surface of which is disposed adjacent, and spaced apart from, the lower surface. On actuation of the disk/knob by a user, the deformable element deforms and the lower surface contacts the upper surface of the light distribution layer. An optical component layer 22 is disposed at a lower side of the light distribution layer, said lower side being opposite to said upper side. The optical component layer comprises emitter(s) and receiver(s) for emitting light into the light distribution layer and receiving light from the distribution layer
25 respectively.
30

Figures 13 and 14 show top and bottom side views respectively of a printed wiring board for used in the previously described optical analogue navigation devices.

The printed wiring board 32 comprises optical elements with discrete optical components and preferably has a height of 1.6 mm or less, more preferably

- 5 1.3mm or less, and more preferably still 1.1mm or less. The area of the printed wiring board is preferably 20mm x 20mm or less, more preferably 15mm x 15mm, and more preferably still 12mm x 12mm or less. Accordingly, a very small, very slim optical device is provided for use in a mobile product.

- 10 Figure 15 shows a bottom-side view and Figure 16 shows a top-side view of an alternative actuator form according to an embodiment of the present invention. Figure 17 shows a cross-sectional view from the bottom-side of the embodiment shown in Figures 15 and 16. In this embodiment, the hemispherical surface of the actuator has a cross shape cut therein which may improve accuracy. In
15 alternative embodiments, the actuator shape may be other than hemispherical e.g. ellipsoid, paraboloid, hyperboloid, toroid, etc...

According to another aspect of the present invention, the principles discussed above in relation to an analogue navigation device may be applied to a key device

- 20 such as a keypad of a phone, a keyboard or buttons/keys on a game device. Such a device may comprise a key as the actuator or may comprise a key and a separate actuator disposed below the key. A light guide is provided below the key/actuator and the actuation of a key results in a change in the relative refractive index as discussed in relation to the navigation devices. In a device
25 having a plurality of keys, the actuation of different keys will result in the light guide being contacted at different positions thereby altering the light signal received by a receiver. The receiver may then output a signal indicative of which key was depressed. Each of the keys may have a different function.

- 30 While this invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to preferred embodiments and described with references to preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in

form and details may be made therein without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

CLAIMS:

1. An analogue navigation device comprising a transmitter for generating a light signal, a receiver for receiving the light signal, a light guide having a surface for internally reflecting the light signal from the transmitter to the receiver, and an actuator having a surface, said actuator surface having at least a portion which is movable between a first position in which it is spaced apart from a portion of said light guide surface with a gas or fluid therebetween, and a second position in which it is in contact with said portion of said light guide surface, said portion of said light guide surface having a higher refractive index than said portion of said actuator surface and said portion of said actuator surface having a different refractive index than said gas or fluid, whereby in use the relative refractive index is changed at the contacted portion of the light guide surface thereby altering the light signal received by the receiver.
- 15 2. An analogue navigation device according to claim 1, whereby in use said receiver outputs a signal indicative of the position of the contacted portion of the light guide surface.
- 20 3. An analogue navigation device according to claim 1 or claim 2, whereby in use said received signal is used to control the position of an element
- 25 4. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein said second position is at a selected one of a plurality of portions on the surface of the light guide.
5. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein a plurality of transmitters is provided.
- 30 6. An analogue navigation device according to claim 5, wherein the transmitters are arranged to pulse alternatively.

7. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein a plurality of receivers is provided.
8. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein
5 the or each transmitter is an LED.
9. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein the or each receiver is a photodiode.
- 10 10. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein four transmitters and a single receiver are provided in a cross configuration having four corners and a centre, each one of the transmitters being disposed at one of the corners and the receiver being disposed at the centre.
- 15 11. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein the light guide includes an optical grating.
12. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein said surface of said actuator is a hemispherical surface.
- 20 13. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein said surface of said actuator is supported by one or more side walls.
- 25 14. An analogue navigation device according to claim 11, wherein said one or more side walls are deformable.
15. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein said surface of said actuator is deformable.
- 30 16. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein said actuator has an upper portion in the form of a stick for actuation by a user.

17. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein
said actuator comprises an arcuate disk disposed on said surface of said
actuator.
- 5 18. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein
the or each transmitters and the or each receivers are disposed in a layer on an
opposite side of said light guide to said actuator.
- 10 19. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, further
comprising a processing device for processing the or each signal received by the
or each receiver and outputting a control signal to control the position of the
element.
- 15 20. An analogue navigation device according any preceding claim, further
comprising a display for displaying an element, whereby in use the position of the
element on the display is controlled.
- 20 21. An analogue navigation device according to any preceding claim, wherein
said received signal is used to produce a radio signal for controlling a radio
controlled device.
22. An analogue navigation device substantially as described herein with
reference to Figures 1-12 of the accompanying drawings.
- 25 23. A hand held electronic device comprising the analogue navigation device
according to any preceding claim.
24. A hand held electronic device substantially as described herein with
reference to Figures 1-12 of the accompanying drawings.
- 30 25. A method of navigating comprising generating a light signal and reflecting
the light signal off a surface, wherein the relative refractive index between

materials on either side of the surface is changed thereby altering the reflected light signal, said reflected light signal being received and used to control the position of an element.

5 26. A key device comprising a transmitter for generating a light signal, a receiver for receiving the light signal, a light guide having a surface for internally reflecting the light signal from the transmitter to the receiver, and an actuator having a surface, said actuator surface having at least a portion which is movable between a first position in which it is spaced apart from a portion of said light
10 guide surface with a gas or fluid therebetween, and a second position in which it is in contact with said portion of said light guide surface, said portion of said light guide surface having a higher refractive index than said portion of said actuator surface and said portion of said actuator surface having a different refractive index than said gas or fluid, whereby in use the relative refractive index is
15 changed at the contacted portion of the light guide surface thereby altering the light signal received by the receiver.

27 A key device according to claim 26, whereby in use said receiver outputs a signal indicative of the position of the contacted portion of the light guide surface.

20

28. A key device according to claim 26 or 27, wherein said actuator is a key or button.

25

29. A key device according to claim 26 or 27, wherein said device further comprises a key which moves said actuator in use.

30. A key device according to claim 28 or 29, wherein said device comprises a plurality of keys.

ABSTRACT

ANALOGUE NAVIGATION DEVICE

5

An analogue navigation device comprising a transmitter for generating a light signal, a receiver for receiving the light signal, a light guide having a surface for internally reflecting the light signal from the transmitter to the receiver, and an actuator having a surface, said actuator surface having at least a portion which is
10 movable between a first position in which it is spaced apart from a portion of said light guide surface with a gas or fluid therebetween, and a second position in which it is in contact with said portion of said light guide surface, said portion of said light guide surface having a higher refractive index than said portion of said actuator surface and said portion of said actuator surface having a different
15 refractive index than said gas or fluid, whereby in use the relative refractive index is changed at the contacted portion of the light guide surface thereby altering the light signal received by the receiver, said received signal being used to control the position of an element.

20

[Figure 1]

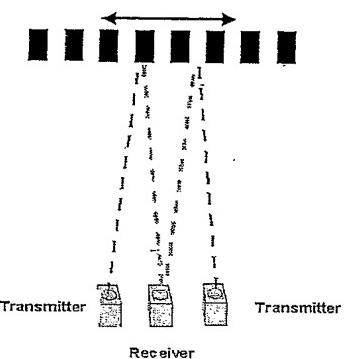
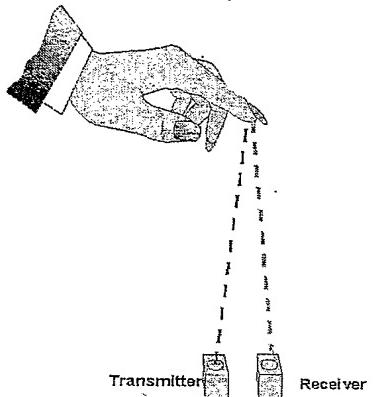


Figure 1

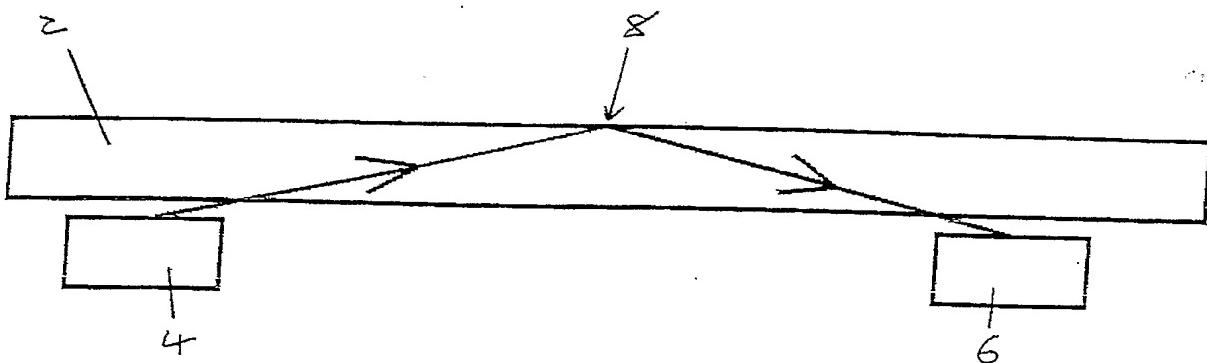


Figure 2

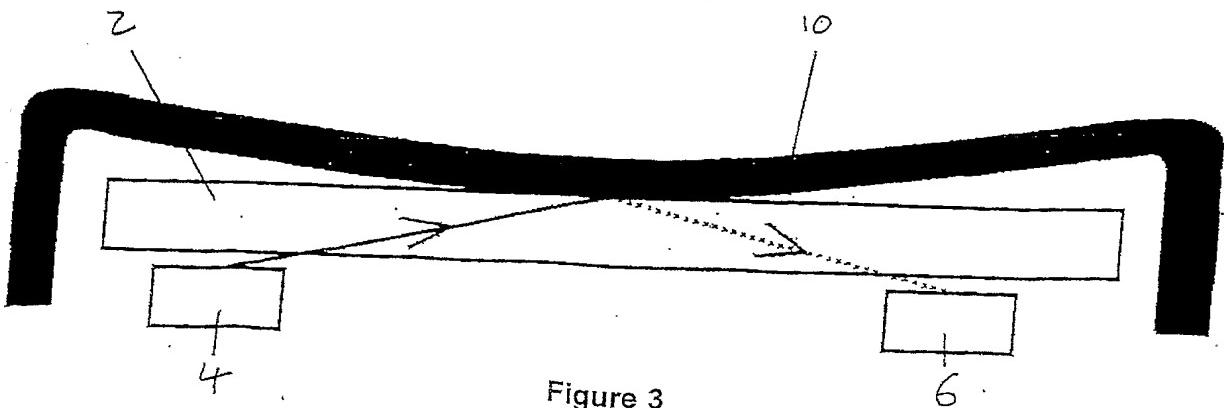
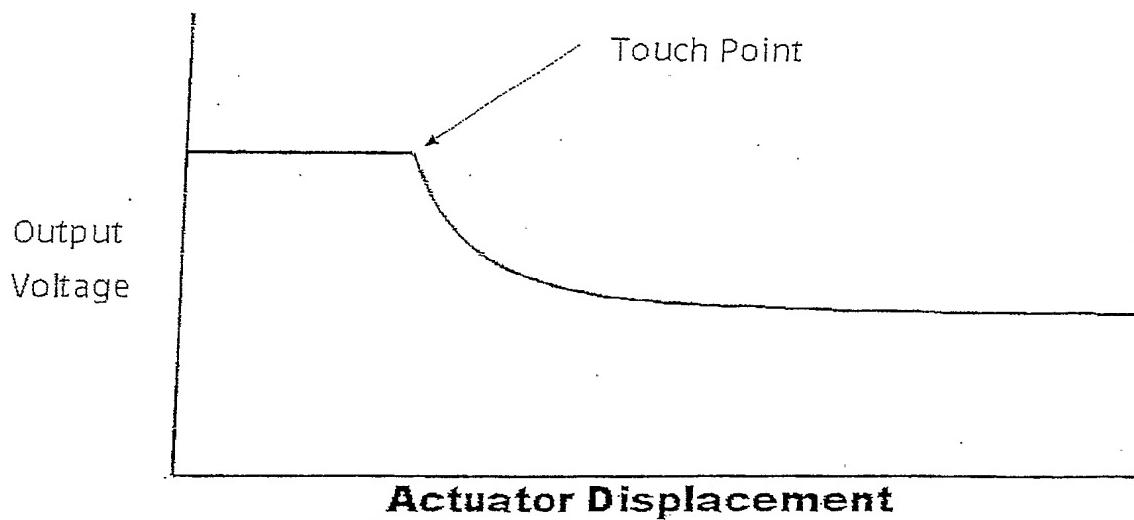


Figure 3



2/6



Actuator Displacement

Figure 4

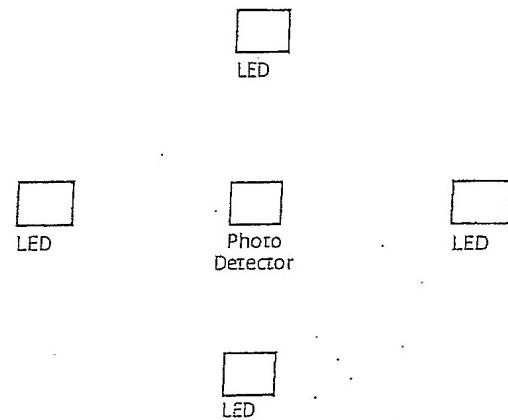
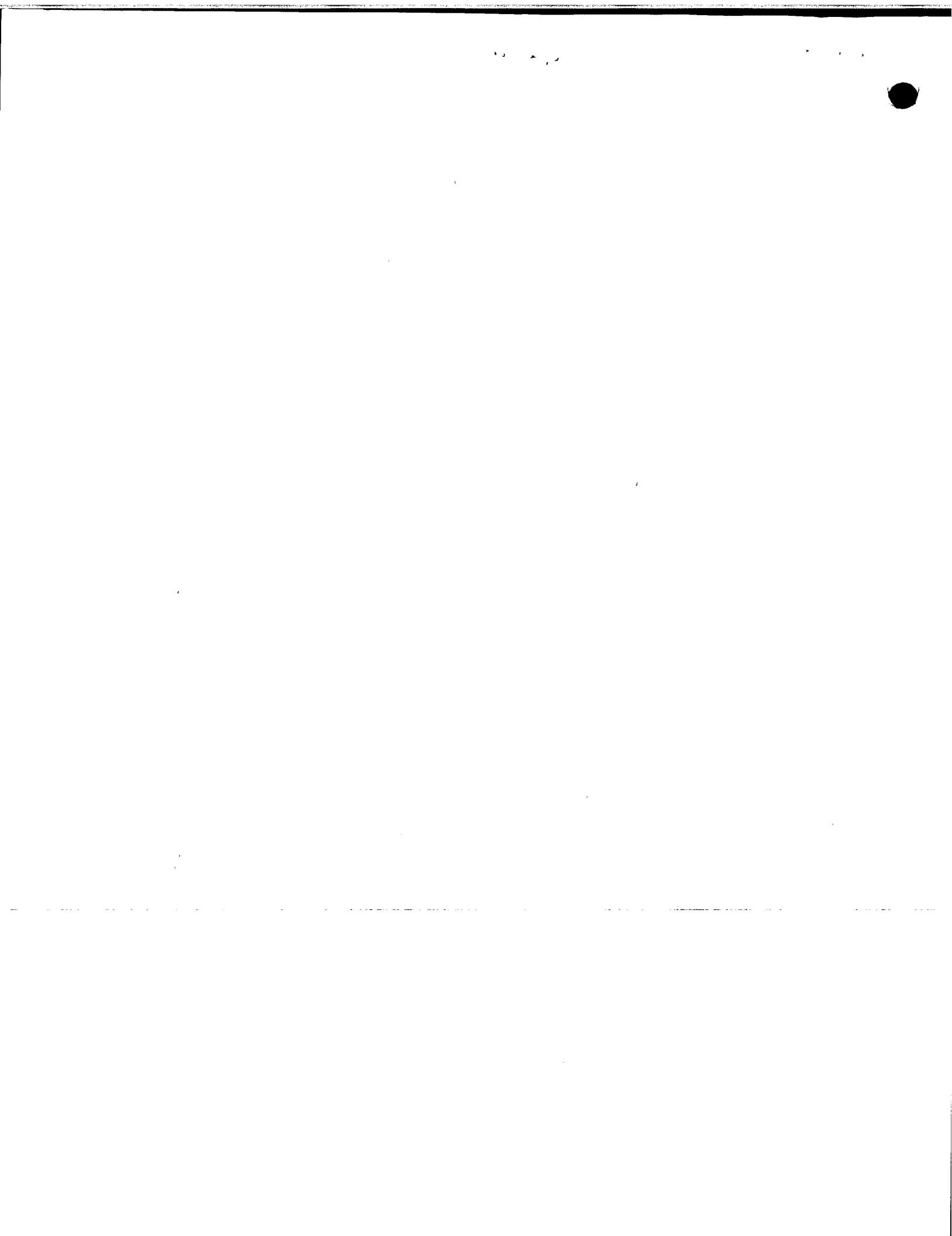


Figure 5



3/6"

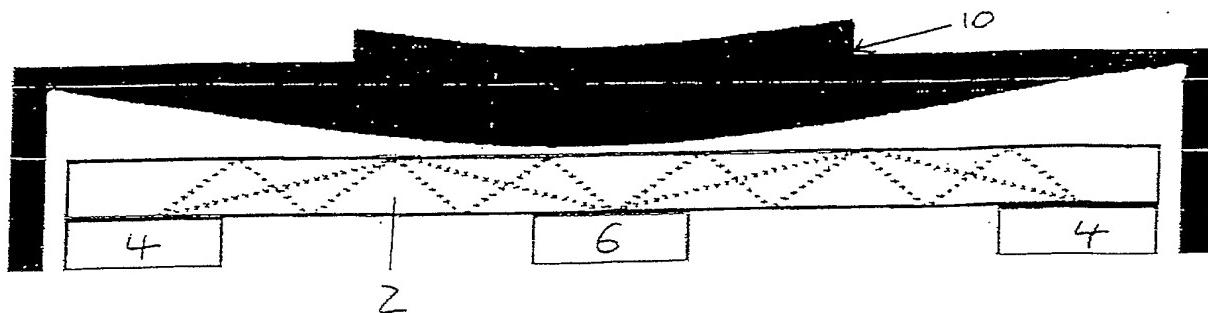


Figure 6

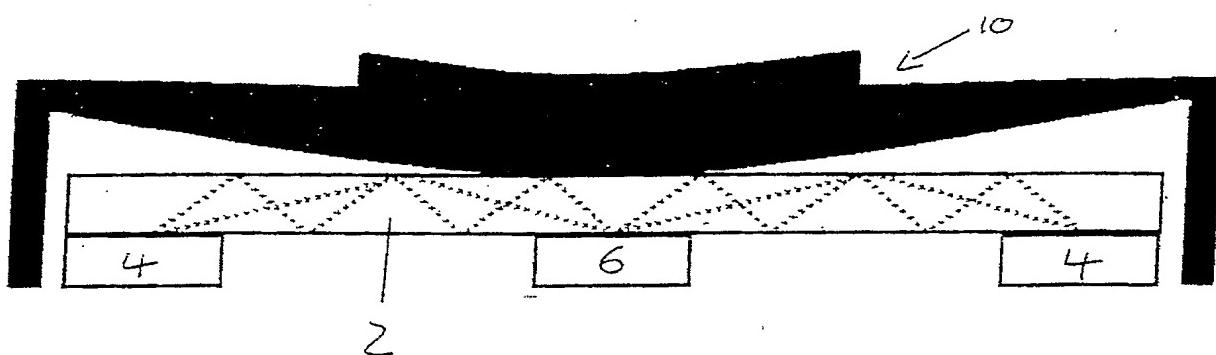


Figure 7

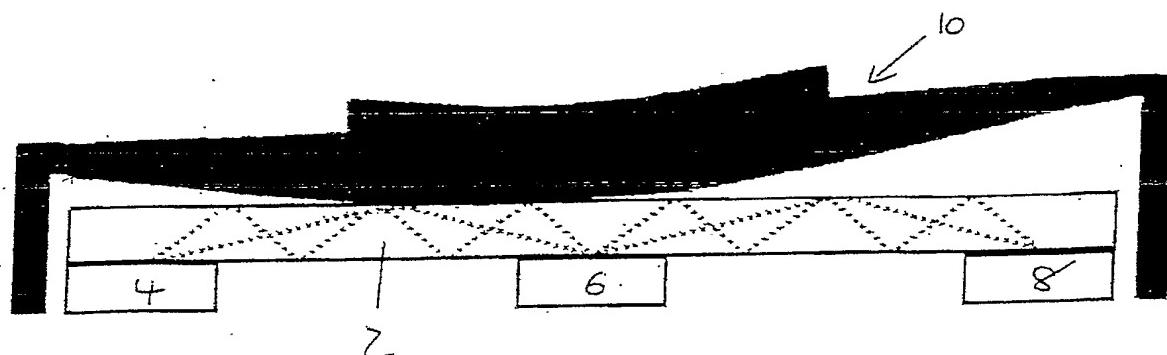


Figure 8



4/6

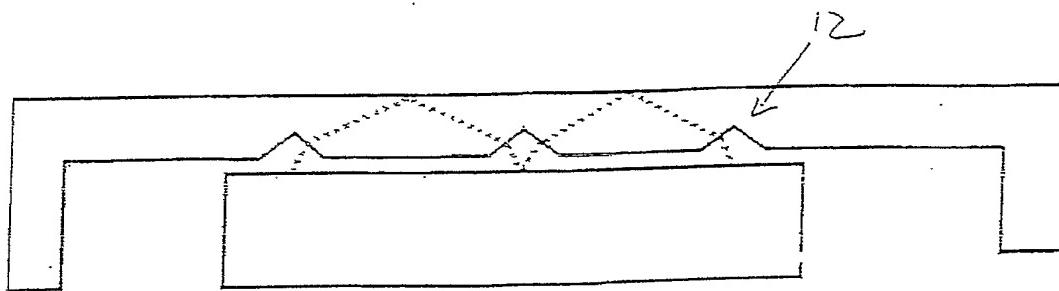


Figure 9

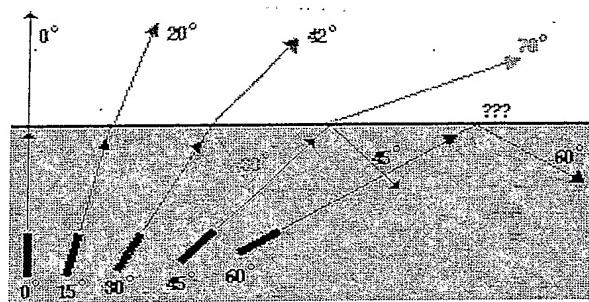


Figure 10

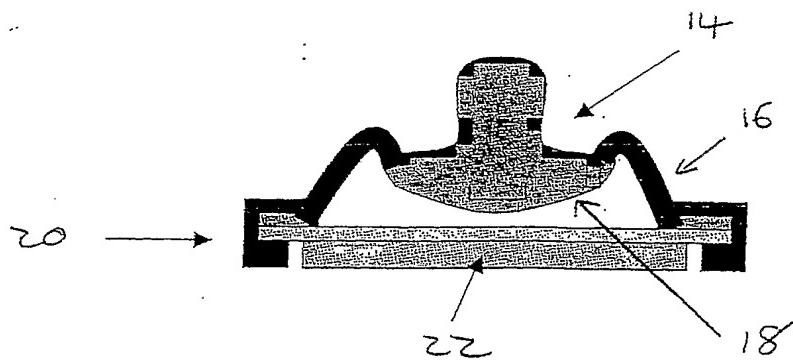
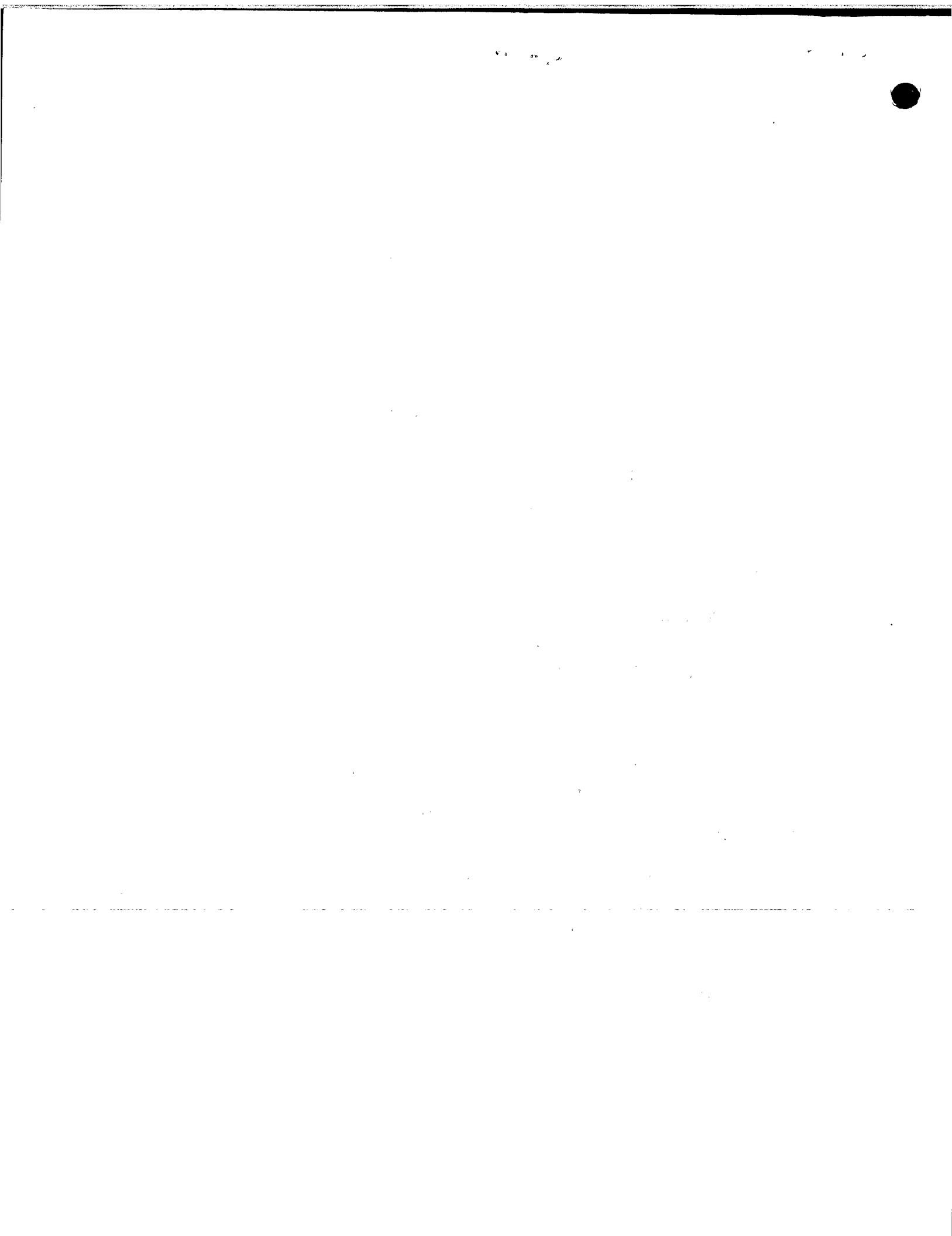


Figure 11



576

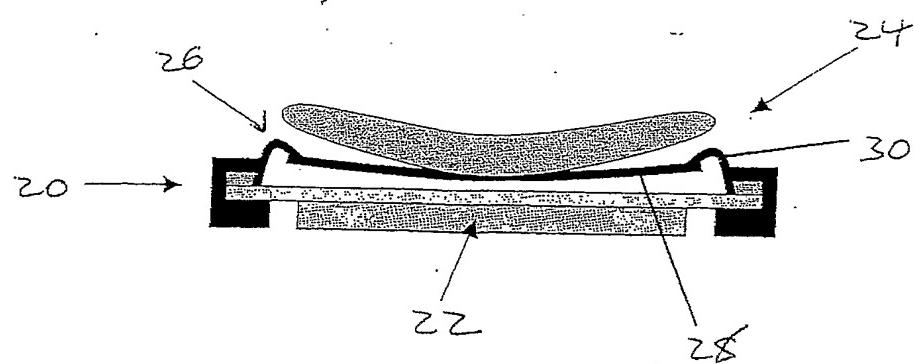


Figure 12

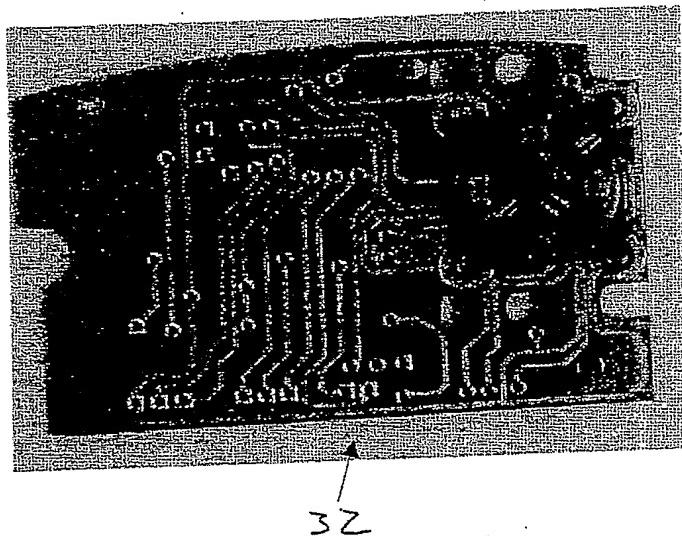


Figure 13

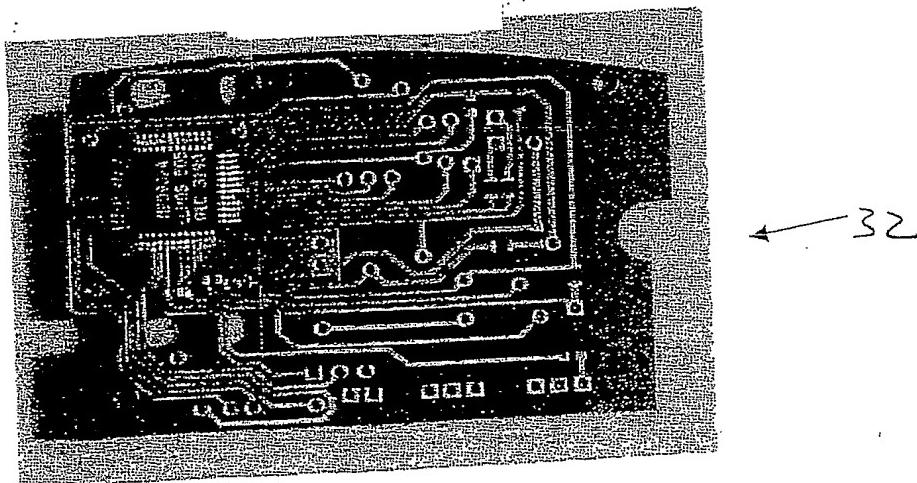


Figure 14

1000 - 1000

6/6

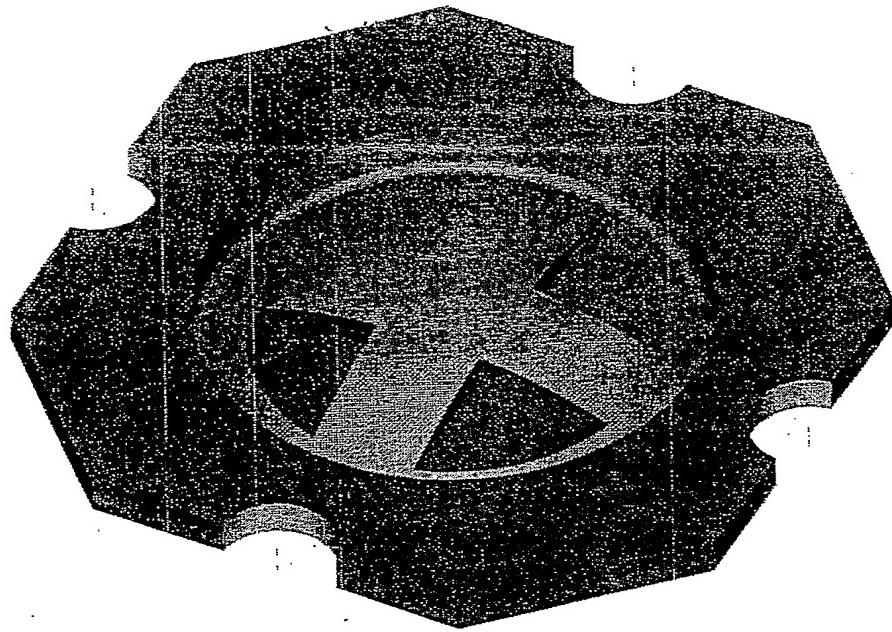


Figure 15

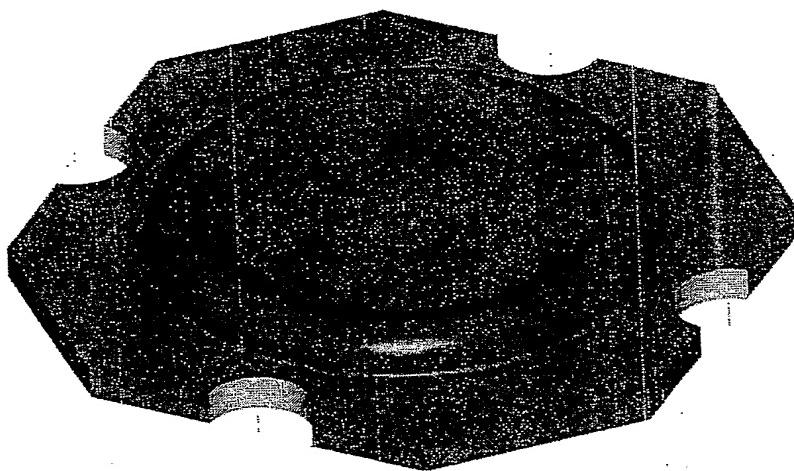


Figure 16

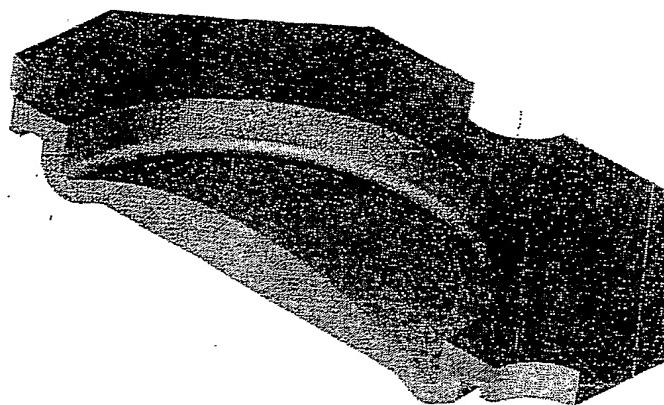


Figure 17

PCT/IB2004/004388

